GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4511
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2008
COMMERCIAL PLANTATION OF JATROPHA
Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing policy of the Railways with regard to commercial plantation of Jatropha;

(b) whether the Railways propose to enter into Joint Venture (JV) partnership with private companies for commercial plantation of jatropha;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) the sites identified for Jatropha plantation in the joint venture; and

(e) the revenue likely to be earned by the Railways from this policy annually?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI R.VELU)

(a) to (e): There is no specific policy with regard to commercial plantation of Jatropha. However, Railways have a general policy with respect to commercial plantation including Jatropha on such vacant land, which is not immediately required for Railways immediate operational use. Railway has entered into joint venture with Indian Oil Corporation (a government company) for plantation of jatropha on 500 hectares of vacant land on nominal licence fees of Rs. 1 per hectare and re-purchase of bio-diesel at mutually agreed concessional rates. Apart from this, commercial plantation for jatropha has been initiated for 45 sites (25 on North-Eastern Railway and 18 sites on South-Central Railway). Assessment of revenue earnings can be done after actual yield on maturity of jatropha plants at the site.